



## Environmental Education Programming



### Why We're Here

The future of the South Florida Ecosystem and its restoration depends on the next generations. Since 1971, teachers have been partnering with Everglades National Park's Education Program to prepare today's students to take over the responsibility of preserving and protecting this fragile wetland. The park offers free, ranger- led, curriculum- based programs to the students of South Florida, as well as teacher training. Programs incorporate Florida Sunshine State Standards and include materials for pre, post, and onsite activities. Teachers must attend a certification workshop prior to bringing their class. Join us for an adventure in learning!

### Day Programs

Time: M, T, Th, Fr 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Group Size: 59 students, 6 adults

Minimum 15 students and 3 adults

Transportation: Provided by visiting school or Miami- Dade County Public Schools.

#### Shark Valley - 4<sup>th</sup> grade

Students board an open- air tram for a 15- mile round trip with a ranger. Along the way, teacher pre- visit preparation helps the students reinforce the concepts of water flow, food chains, native cultures, flora and fauna. The tram stops halfway at a 60- foot observation tower, where students have lunch and then trek up to the platform to gaze out on the largest wilderness east of the Mississippi River.

#### Royal Palm/Long Pine Key - 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades

Rangers guide students on a walking tour of the Anhinga Trail boardwalk. Teachers pair up with rangers to team teach the students about the park's fragile habitats. Students will visit 4 habitats on this visit. After their first stop, they proceed to the Long Pine Key picnic area for lunch. Then it is off to visit the wonders of a tropical hardwood hammock, sawgrass prairie and the pinelands. Students learn concepts of water flow, food webs, habitats, flora and fauna and the impacts of fire.

Teachers are asked to conduct post- site activities with their students.



### Three-Day Camping Programs

Days: M- W or W- F

Group size: 26 students, 6 adults (max 8)

Minimum 15 students 3 adults

Transportation: Not Provided

#### 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades

Over three days and two nights, students participate in a variety of activities that might include: dry and wet hikes, canoeing, evening programs, star gazing, archeology or Miccosukee Indian study, journaling and artistic expression, water debate, and a tram trip. The participants sleep in platform tents onsite and have access to potable water, restrooms, outdoor grills, a large shelter for meals and a campfire ring. Habitats explored may include the

sawgrass prairie, pinelands, tropical hardwood hammock, and cypress slough/dome. Activities are led by both the ranger and the teacher.

Two camping locations are available. Both sites are used exclusively by the Everglades Education Program.

**Hidden Lake** – Approx. 15 miles from Homestead, accessible for east coast & Monroe County. Differences: canoeing, night walk to Anhinga Trail

**Loop Road** – Off Hwy 41 (Tamiami Trail), approx. 40 miles west of Miami, accessible to both coasts. Differences: Shark Valley tram trip, archeology, Miccosukee Indian activity



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## Teacher Workshops

In order for teachers to participate with their students, they must attend a workshop. The day program workshops are scheduled on teacher workdays (Miami- Dade) and are approximately 7 hours. Camping workshops are about 18 hours over two days on a weekend. All program workshops are

conducted in the fall and winter. At the workshop, teachers will receive program materials for the site they will visit with their students, an information folder, and an Activity Guide. This is a one- time certification, provided the teacher continues to participate in the program at least every two years.

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## Scheduling a Program

Instructions for program registration are on our website at <http://www.nps.gov/ever/forteachers/>. Follow the links for “Plan a Field Trip” and “Ranger- led programs.” Registration typically begins during teacher workdays, following Miami-

Dade’s summer recess. Registration is on a first- come, first- served basis. If you would like to receive a registration reminder by mail, please call our Education Office with your contact information.

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## Distance Learning



Students from around the world can learn about the role of reptiles and amphibians in Everglades National Park through an interactive electronic field trip. Crocodiles, turtles, snakes and frogs lead the way to the discovery of adaptations, food chains, habitats and much more!

Debuting in the fall of 2007 is a new e- field trip about non- native species, called *Don’t Let it Loose!* To access both e- field trips follow the link on the Distance Learning Opportunities page of our website, in the For Teachers section, or go directly to [www.efieldtrips.org](http://www.efieldtrips.org).

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## Curriculum Materials



Our education department has authored several original curriculum guides that facilitate classroom learning about the Everglades environment. Each guide is available for download from our website. Free in- school teacher workshops may be scheduled by calling the Education Office.

### South Florida National Parks Activity Guide

*Targets: 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades*

Activities focus on a variety of subjects about the Everglades and the South Florida Ecosystem.

### Everglades ABCs

*Targets: K- 3<sup>rd</sup> grades*

Activities use Everglades alphabet cards.

### The Journey of Wayne Drop

*Targets: 4<sup>th</sup> grade*

Story and activities follow a rain drop and his friends through the Everglades watershed.

### Don’t Let It Loose

*Targets: 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grades*

Learn about the impacts of non- native species.

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## Traveling Materials



### Everglades Media Library

Teachers may request one of our Everglades Media Libraries for use in the classroom. Each library includes a variety of DVDs and CDs to familiarize students with Everglades National Park and its many resources. The media library is sent by mail and may be borrowed for one month. To request one of our media libraries, call the office or visit our website. Supplies are limited, and are available on a rotating basis.

### Read to Succeed Miccosukee Traveling Trunk

This comprehensive trunk provides 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers with the opportunity to teach about our local Miccosukee Indian Tribe. The trunk contains a teacher’s activity guide, 37 *Circle of Life* books, costumes, model canoe, stick ball sticks, miniature flag, doll, rattle and a small sweet- grass basket. The trunk may be borrowed for 3 weeks, and must be picked up and returned at Shark Valley. Please call our office to make arrangements in advance.

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## Education Office

(305) 242-7753 phone  
1 (239) 695-2584 fax

<http://www.nps.gov/ever/forteachers/>

